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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTIONS 3829
NAZI WAR CRIMES PICTURE DIRECTORATE
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File No. S-3-11338

Salzburg, 12 February 1947

AMERICAN

53072

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: GIRZICK Ernst, Allgemeine SS-Obersturmführer in the SD and Suspected War Criminal

RE: Interrogation and Internment

Amey
Pursuant to instructions from the Special Agent in Charge, Salzburg City Section, this Agent interrogated Subject on the basis of reports from the Sicherheitsdirektion in Salzburg and the Gendarmerie in Neumarkt-Koestendorf, Bezirk and Land Salzburg, indicating that Subject had been arrested on 16 November 1946 by the Gendarmerie in Neumarkt-Koestendorf on charges of membership in the illegal NSDAP and non-registration under §§ 8 and 10 of the Austrian Verbotsgesetz.

The Gendarmerie report specified that, according to the records of the Polizeidirektion in Vienna, Subject was a member of the NSDAP from 1 August 1931 (membership No. 512,942), that he was a holder of the Blutorden and the Ostmarkmedaille and an SS-Hauptsturmführer in the SD.

The report further indicated that Subject had admitted to the Gendarmerie his membership in the Allgemeine SS from 1934 and of the SD in Vienna and Prague from 1939 till 1945, attaining the rank of an Allgemeine SS-Obersturmführer. Admittedly he had been assigned to the "Zentralstelle für jüdische Auswanderung" (central office of Jewish immigration) in both of these cities.

Reference is made to Interrogation Report No. 31, A.C. of S., G-2, No 3rd Army, dated 19 August 1945, Subject: "German activities in Hungary", chapter I, "The German Police System in Hungary", on file in this office, in which Subject appears as an SS-Hauptsturmführer or SS-Untersturmführer and a member of the "Sonderkommando EICHMANN", a unit "assigned the task of deportation and extermination of all Hungarian Jews". Further reference is made to LOIC, CIC, Salzburg Section, dated 14 January 1947, Subject: "HAINDL Rudolf Franz, 2003, former SS-Scharführer in the SD-Zentralstelle für jüdische Auswanderung, Vienna", containing detailed

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Information on the "Zentralstelle" in Vienna and the organizations connected therewith. Interrogation of Subject determined the following:

Subject, born 17 October 1911 in Vienna, Austrian national, Gottlieb, electrician, was a Schutze (Private) in the Austrian Bundesheer, Infantry Regiment II in Vienna, from January 1931 till July 1933. Subject stated he was dismissed from the service because he had been a member of the NSDAP Ortsgruppe for army personnel in Vienna from 1 August 1931.

From July 1933 till January 1934 Subject worked as a laborer in the "Oesterreichische freiwillige Arbeitsdienst", an NSDAP sponsored, voluntary, low-salaried labor service.

In January 1934 Subject was arrested by the Austrian police authorities in Vienna and sentenced by the Landesgericht I, Vienna, to five and a half years imprisonment for the unlawful possession of explosives. He served part of his sentence in the jail at Stein d.d.Donau, Niederoesterreich until granted amnesty in July 1936. In April 1934, while in prison, Subject was entered on the membership lists of the 89th SS-Standarte in Vienna, a unit composed of Nazis dismissed from the Austrian army.

Following his release, Subject was unemployed till summer 1937 when he went to Munich, Germany, allegedly with a legal passport, to look for work. He reported to the "Hilfswerk Nordwest" (Austrian Legion) and through that office obtained employment as a street car conductor in Dresden, Germany. In Dresden Subject was active in the 46th SS-Standarte, attaining the rank of an SS-Sturmann.

Subject returned to Vienna in August 1938 and worked as a night guard of the "Verkehrsverkehrsstelle", Vienna I, Strauchasse 1. At the same time he reported for duty to the 89th SS-Standarte. From Fall 1938 till summer 1939 Subject was active in Sturm 1, Sturmbann I, of the same Standarte as an SS-Scharfuehrer and a Sturmsportwart (sport instructor).

In summer 1939, the CO of the Standarte, SS-Standartenfuehrer FISCHER (fmu) who knew Subject as a Sturmsportwart, suggested to Subject that he join the SD, which was then expanding its activities.

Subject thereupon reported to the office of the Inspektor der Sicherheitspolizei in Vienna and was assigned to the "Zentralstelle fuer Juedische Auswanderung", headed by SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer BRUNNER (alias BRUNNER I). Subject worked in the documents sections, the emigration sections, the "Bahnungsfreimachung" (surrender of Jewish apartments), and the file section of the "Juden-erfassung" (registration of Jews). Subject's duties included interrogations of Jews relative to their emigration documents, their evacuation from apartments in Vienna's outer districts into the inner city, and, in 1942, the supervision of the files compiled on Vienna Jews by BRUNNER Anton ("BRUNNER II"), a civilian employee of the "Zentralstelle". Whenever transports of Jews from Vienna to concentration points in Poland and to the "Judenalters-Ghetto Theresienstadt" were to be made ready for shipment, Subject had to instruct Vienna railroad officials to make trains available.

Subject stayed on duty with the "Zentralstelle" till summer 1943, being promoted to SS-Obersturmfuehrer in April 1940, to SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer in 1941, and to SS-Untersturmfuehrer in September 1942 following his graduation from the SS-Fuehrerschule (OCS) in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

In summer 1943 Subject was transferred to the "Zentralstelle fuer die Regelung der Juidentrage in Boehmen und Muenchen" (central office for the settling of the Jewish question in Bohemia and Moravia) in Prague, Schlesische Strasse 11, where he stayed until 5 May 1945 except for the period between March and December 1944 when he was on a tour of duty in Hungary.

In the "Zentralstelle" in Prague, whose staff in part was composed of SS-Sturmbannfuehrer GUNTHIER Hans, SS-Obersturmfuehrer RAHM Karl (arrested) and GUNZEL Gerhard, assistants to GUNTHIER, SS-Untersturmfuehrer SCHENKEL Walter and SS-Oberscharfuehrers EISEL Josef (arrested in Vienna) and SOELLER (fny), Subject's duties included general correspondence and investigations of the selection of Jews as requested by higher headquarters in Vienna and Germany. Subject denied having had any part in organizing Jewish transports from Prague.

In March 1944 Subject was ordered by GÜNTHER to report to the office of the IDS in Vienna for further instructions. In Vienna Subject received orders to join the groups of the Bds Ungarn then alerted in Vienna for shipment to Hungary. Subject, together with SS-Sturmbannfuehrer SKLIZ (fmu) and SS-Obersturmfuehrer VOLKERT (fmu), proceeded to Gyoer (Raab), Hungary, to establish there an SD office. Subject's duties in Gyoer included the issuance of instructions to the local Jews to the effect that their three communities were dissolved and replaced by an "Aeltestenrat", that they were not allowed to leave the Gyoer area without permission from the SD, and that a "Kautionsbetrag" (bail) of fifty thousand Pengös had to be deposited by the Jews of Gyoer in the SD office as a safety measure against violations of German regulations. Subject denied having taken the deposit himself but admitted that two or three days after the order was published representatives of the local Jews brought the money into the SD office.

Subsequently Subject proceeded with SPRINZ to Székesfehérvár (Stuhlwiesenbourg), Hungary, to establish there the office of the KdS Stuhlwiesenbourg. VOLKERT remained in charge of the office in Gyoer. In Stuhlwiesenbourg Subject confiscated several Jewish homes for SD offices and billets. Shortly thereafter he was ordered by SPRINZ to report for duty to the office of the Bds Ungarn in Budapest, headed by SS-Oberfuehrer GESCHKE Dr. Fritz.

Subject stated that in Budapest he and a group of SS-officers, including SS-Hauptsturmfuehrers NISZCZENY Dieter (arrested), SEIDLE Dr. Siegfried, LACHMANN Franz, NOVACK Franz, and DANIECKER (fmu), were oriented by SS-Obersturmbannfuehrer KRUEYER or KRUMAY (fmu) that they were slated to form a special detachment under SS-Obersturmbannfuehrer NICHOLINI Adolf, assigned the task of "assisting and advising" the Hungarian police authorities in the establishment of Jewish ghettos in Hungary. NICHOLINI was to be in charge of this "Aussen-Commando" with headquarters in Munkacs.

According to Subject, the whole group subsequently proceeded to Munkacs for a meeting with Lt. Habs of the Hungarian Gendarmerie posts in the area and Lt. Col. FRENCHY (fmu), who exhorted the gendarmes to assemble the Jews in the ghettos as quickly as possible.

Subject was ordered by ISLIC to continue on his way to Keszthely in the Bunkers area together with a small detachment including SS-Obersturmfuehrer SCHMITT (fmu), SS-Scharfuehrer LACH (fmu), and one Hungarian liaison man named KELLER (?), Laszlo and to supervise there the establishment of a Jewish ghetto.

Subject admitted that under his supervision this action was carried out in approximately two weeks. Some six to eight thousand Jews from Keszthely and vicinity were assembled to a ghetto comprising one third of the area of the town which had a total population of about ten thousand.

From May 1944 till August 1944 Subject was stationed in Kuchau, on the border between Hungary and Slovakia. It was Subject's duty, together with one Dr. JURKOVIC (fmu) to inspect the transports of Jewish evacuees from Hungary into Poland and to turn them over to a German police detachment of allegedly unknown description.

From September to December 1944 Subject claimed to have been stationed in Budapest without any specific duties awaiting instructions on a new assignment.

From December 1944 till 5 May 1945 Subject was again in the Zentralstelle in Prague, in charge of the file section. In January 1945 Subject was promoted to SS-Obersturmfuehrer.

On 5 May 1945 GUNTHER and his brother, GUNTHER Rolf, a Weiflen SS-Untersturmfuehrer, GUEHNEL, ASCHENBRENNER, WEISEL, one SS-Untersturmfuehrer FIDLER Hans, and Subject left Prague in the direction of Budweis, Czechoslovakia. Subject stated that during the last days before his departure from Prague, GUEHNEL destroyed all the files. Subject claimed that he was separated from the group during a severe shelling of the road. Subject removed his SS-insignia and joined a Wehrmacht outfit which issued him papers as an Oberwachmeister.

Subject was taken prisoner by US troops and confined at a P.W. camp in Deppel near Karlbad, Czechoslovakia. Subject stated he was discharged on 29 May 1945 as a Wehrmacht soldier. He came to Neumarkt, Reichsland Salzburg, to join his wife. From June 1945 until his arrest Subject worked in Neumarkt as a laborer in a cheese factory.

Subject claimed not to have been in touch with any of the 52-personalities named above. He denied having any knowledge as to the current whereabouts of BICHLER Adolf.

Files of this detachment contain the following information on the personalities named by Subject:

BICHLER Adolf appears on SHAEF card No. 67055 as an SS-Obersturmbannfuehrer, Head of Abteilung IV B 4, RSHA, Berlin, dealing with anti-Jewish measures (1941-1945); connected with scheme for getting Jews out of Hungary in exchange for foreign currency (June 1944); responsible for atrocities by Gestapo; United Nations War Crimes Commission Case.

GUENTHER Hans appears as an SS-Sturmbannfuehrer on SHAEF cards Nos. 31399 and 31400; concerned with evacuation of Jews from Rumania (August 1942); possibly connected with transports of Jews in August 1944. He appears in Consolidated Interrogation Report No. 9, MIS Center, Hq. USFET, dated 15 November 1945, Subject: "Amt IV RSHA", as an assistant to Obersturmbannfuehrer BICHLER, according to Current Information Report, MIS in Austria, dated 2 July 1946, he fled from Prague in April 1945 with 25 kg of jewels, gold, and platinum taken from Jews; he is believed to be at large in Germany.

KISLICENY Dietrich appears on SHAEF cards Nos. 119230, and 1464, as an SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer, employed in Amt IV, RSHA, March 1944.

KRUMBEY or KRUMAJ (fnu) is listed on SHAEF card No. 110871 as an SS-Obersturmbannfuehrer, Abteilung IV B, RSHA, one of the deputy chiefs of the SD in Hungary (1944); took leading part in arranging mission to Istanbul re exchange of Jews for goods and money (1944); on BICHLER's staff with Abt. IV B, Hungary (1945).

SPRINZ Franz of SHAEF cards Nos. 1950 and 147, SS-Sturmbannfuehrer, acting chief of the Gestapo in Cologne (1942), is possibly identical with SPRINZ named in this report.

WILHELM ORTNER (I.A.) appears on SHAEF cards No. 3218, 26419, and 3373 as an SS-Obersturmfuehrer with IV B in Hungary (1943); said to be a sadist and torturer, referred to as "Jew specialist", in Prague with KREMLER and HUMPLIK before HABERICH's appointment to Prague; chief of the Gestapo in Bihor (August 1942); on ZICHMANN's staff in Hungary, 1943; sent to Rome by RSHA to organise deportation of Jews from Italy to Germany (October 1943).

GUENNEL Gerhard appears on SHAEF card No. 3429 as an SS-Obersturmfuehrer and Personal Referent of the Bds Prague (April 1942).

ASCHENBRENNER Walter appears on SHAEF card No. 117739 as an SS-Untersturmfuehrer at RSHA (21 June 1944).

FIDDLER Hans is listed as an SS-Untersturmfuehrer, attached to the BdsUSD Prague on SHAEF card No. 120,856.

NOVACK Franz appears on SHAEF card No. 108,203 as SS-Obersturmfuehrer, member of RSHA, IV B 4 (1943), and on SHAEF card No. 110,873 as an SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer, member of the ZICHMANN staff in Hungary.

JURKOVIC Mato appears on SHAEF card No. 224847 as an Obersturmfuehrer in the Waffen SS (June 1944); transferred from the Croatian army into the Waffen SS in May 1943.

AGENT'S NOTES:

Since Subject falls within an automatic arrest and detention category according to current directives he was interned at Camp Marcus W. Cr. on 17 February 1947. It is recommended that Subject's case be brought to the attention of SCIT 7768, Salzburg.

APPROVED:

Seal of J. Weber
GERALD J. WEBER

CHIEF CIC
Land Salzburg Section
Telephone: Salzburg 1907

IDENTIFICATION:

- 1 - A/C: of S., G-2 (CI), USFA
- 1 - A/C: of S., G-2, ZC/A (thru S-2, 16th Inf)
- 1 - CIC, Vienna
- 1 - SCIT 7768, Salzburg
- 1 - CIC

Max B. ...
MEIR BEN-NORIN
Special Agent, CIC

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